

NY Times
Sept 24, 1947

pg 14

SEPT

Dr. Alice Hamilton Is First of Her Sex to Be So Honored for Health Research

A 78-year-old woman was acclaimed yesterday as the first of her sex to win an annual \$1,000 Lasker Award of the American Public Health Association. She is Dr. Alice Hamilton who pioneered in hygienic and industrial disease research at the Harvard Medical School and spent forty years in developing methods to prevent occupational ailments.

"This award," said Dr. George Baehr, president of the New York Academy of Medicine and chairman of the awards committee, "is a belated recognition of her great services in protecting the health of workers. No one has done more in this field."

Dr. Thomas Parran, 57, Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service, was announced as winner of a special award of \$2,500 for his "outstanding contributions to the national health and the World Health Organization."

Three other persons won \$1,000 awards and citations. They include: Dr. Oswald T. Avery, 70, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research; Dr. Thomas Francis Jr., 47, of the University of Michigan School of Public Health, and Dr. Homer Smith, 52, of the New York University College of Medicine.

Group Awards Announced

Group awards went to the British Ministries of Food and Health and the United States Committee on Joint Causes of Death. All awards are scheduled to be presented formally at a dinner of the A. P. H. A.'s seventy-fifth annual convention, Oct. 9, in Atlantic City, N. J.

Dr. Hamilton, Professor Emeritus of Industrial Hygiene at Harvard, lives at Hadlyme, Conn. Her studies of lead, phosphorus and mercury and TNT (Trinitrotoluene) poisoning resulted in vastly improved health conditions for workers, the passage of workmen's compensation laws and the preservation of thousands of lives. She was instrumental also in investigating such organic solvents as benzol and carbon disulphide, which attacked the bone marrow and liver, respectively, according to Dr. Baehr.

One of the most important functions for which Dr. Parran is cited is his approach to the control of syphilis and gonorrhea. He broke down public prejudice against use of these terms and this eventually led to the appropriation of Federal grants-in-aid to the states and to establishment of rapid-treatment centers throughout the country.

Sharp Decrease the Result

The result, Dr. Baehr said, has been a sharp decline in venereal disease deaths, with a rate for syphilis falling from 15 for 100,000 persons in 1937 to a new low estimate of 10.7 in 1945.

Dr. Avery was commended for his lifetime work on the antigenic constitution of bacteria, particularly the pneumococcus. His studies stimulated research leading to the discovery of anti-biotics. Dr. Baehr reported, through the development of immuno-chemistry.

Dr. Francis contributed greatly to the total knowledge of influenza. He was responsible for the identification of B influenza, one of the two known types and for